



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMENDMENT "A" PRIOR TO ACTION

APPLICANTS: Pauschinger et al

SERIAL NO.: 09/723,029

GROUP ART UNIT: 2122

DATE FILED: November 27, 2000

INVENTION: "METHOD FOR PROTECTING A DEVICE AGAINST
OPERATION WITH UNALLOWED CONSUMABLES
AND ARRANGEMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE METHOD"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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S I R:

Applicants herewith amend the above application as follows, and request entry of the amendment prior to examination on the merits.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 11 as follows:

aa
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--German PS 196 13 945 discloses a device for preventing re-employment of a container for the ink supply of an ink print head. An ink connecting line from the ink print head is docked to the container with a hollow needle via a rubber-elastic closure. One cover mechanism is irreversibly triggered by the hollow needle when the container is pulled off. A refilled ink reservoir can no longer be docked. Unfortunately, this solution also prevents the re-employment of containers filled with original ink. The used ink tanks only can be returned to the dealer or the manufacturer's service department for proper disposal. It is a disadvantage when even a recycled consumable offered by the manufacturer cannot be re-employed. The use of exactly copied pirated ink reservoirs, unfortunately, can not be avoided with this known arrangement. A distinction between original consumable and unauthorized copies thereof is required for that